

State Recycling Law (AB 939)

Background

In 1989 new legislation was passed that substantially revised solid waste management practices in California. Assembly Bill 939, the California Integrated Waste Management Act, was the foundation of this new approach. There were several significant components of this legislation and its companion bills. Each city and county in California was required to divert 25 percent of its solid waste from landfills through waste prevention, recycling, composting and other programs by 1995. Fifty percent diversion is required by the year 2000. Cities and counties can be fined up to \$10,000 per day for failure to comply.

Focus and Planning

The focus of this legislation was to decrease reliance upon landfill disposal and turn towards a policy of preventing waste generation, reusing products and packaging as much as possible, then recycling and composting whenever possible. This approach preserves natural resources and saves energy; it also reduces the generation of air and water pollution both in manufacturing and disposal practices. A hierarchy was established which ranked the priorities for solid waste handling practices: waste prevention (reduction and reuse), recycling and composting, incineration, and burial in a landfill. Each city and county was required to develop a plan and implement programs to meet its goals. The plans include specific elements on waste prevention and recycling, household hazardous waste, and siting of solid waste facilities. The plans had to be approved by the State.

The District's Role

The District has been involved in recycling activities for many years, and it is with this experience that the District is assisting its member agencies to meet the goals set forth in the state legislation. The District has assumed the responsibility for performing several key tasks, as required by the state, for its member agencies. In addition to diverting more than 38% of the area wastestream at its facilities, District staff records, monitors, and evaluates the recycling rates of each jurisdiction for compliance with state reporting guidelines. The District also is the primary provider of recycling education and promotion programs as outlined in state approved plans.

Joint Powers Authority

The Monterey Regional Waste Management Joint Powers Authority (JPA) was formed in 1993 by the cities of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Del Rey Oaks, Marina, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Sand City, and Seaside. In December 1995, the Pebble Beach Community Services District became a member of the JPA. The purpose of the JPA is to finance new facilities that will help member agencies meet the requirements of the State Recycling Law (AB 939), provide flow control of waste materials to District JPA facilities, and control the size of the landfill service area.

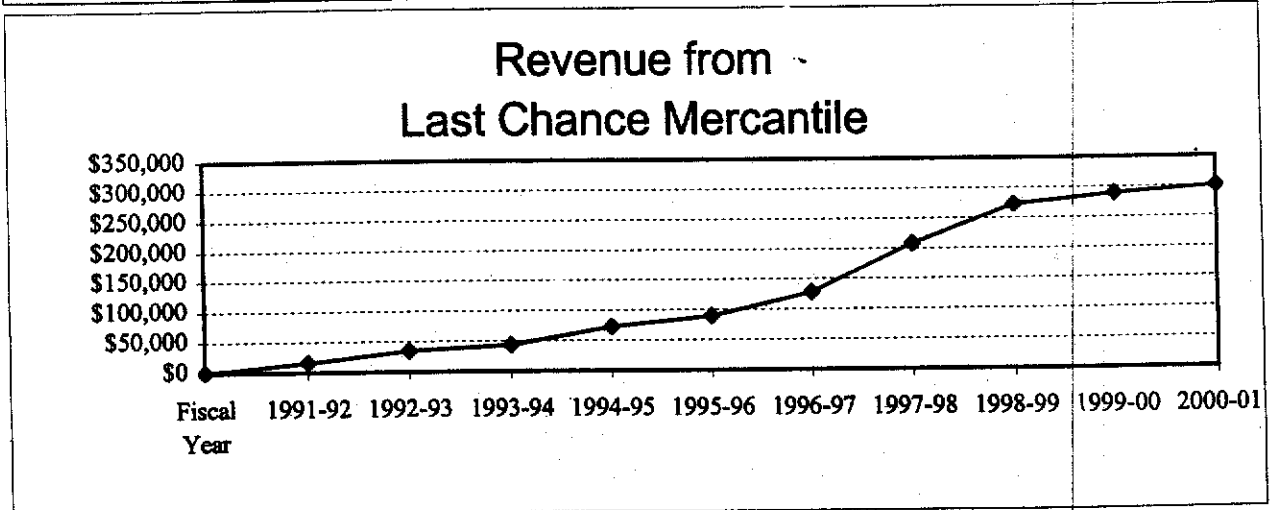


Last Chance Mercantile



The Last Chance Mercantile is the District's resale shop. Operated since 1990, this store sells items that have been discarded. Items are either collected at the Materials Recovery Facility or brought directly to the Last Chance by District residents. Everything from books to bicycles, construction materials to household items, toys, and more are available at the Last Chance. This combination flea market, garage sale, and lumber yard not only provides an outlet for reusable items, but also a direct way of reducing the amount of waste that goes to the landfill.

Last Chance Mercantile Tonnage and Income		
Fiscal Year	Tonnage Diverted From Landfill	Income From Resale
FY 1991-92	156 tons	\$ 15,859
FY 1992-93	139 tons	\$ 43,179
FY 1993-94	221 tons	\$ 43,000
FY 1994-95	189 tons	\$ 72,296
FY 1995-96	297 tons	\$ 89,643
FY 1996-97	442 tons	\$ 127,800
FY 1997-98	478 tons	\$ 208,416
FY 1998-99	515 tons	\$ 272,159
FY 1999-00	475 tons	\$ 289,016
FY 2000-01	565 tons	\$ 301,100
TOTAL	3,477 tons	\$1,462,468



Liquid Waste Disposal

During the 1970s and 1980s, the District accepted a significant quantity of liquid waste at the Marina disposal site. The liquid waste consisted of undewatered sewage sludge, septic tank pumpings, portable (chemical) toilet wastes, and restaurant grease trap pumpings. The liquid waste was disposed of by landspreading and diking on a 150-acre area of sand dune deposits located in the upland plateau area southwest of the existing landfill.

After the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency's (MRWPCA) wastewater treatment plant became fully operational in 1990, the District's liquid waste spreading operations were largely phased out. The amount of liquid waste accepted for landspreading at the District Site decreased from a peak of 106,127 tons in FY 19981-82 to 1,160 tons in FY 1998-99.

Currently, the District only accepts drilling muds, lake and harbor dredgings, storm-related landslide muds, and other non-hazardous liquid wastes which are not compatible with the MRWPCA's wastewater treatment plant. These liquid wastes are disposed of by landspreading in a 25-acre future landfill area. After air-drying, these materials are used at the landfill as cover soil.

Liquid Waste Disposed By Landspreading (tons)						
Fiscal Year	Septic Pumpings	Undewatered Sludge	Chemical Toilets	Greasetrap Pumpings*	Other Liquid Wastes*	Total
1968-70	770	4,700	0	0	0	5,470
1970-80	67,600	95,455	9,667	0	0	172,722
1980-90	142,438	684,893	33,643	0	0	860,977
1990-00	0	0	0	12,748	34,168	46,916
2000-01	0	0	0	0	1,265	1,265
TOTAL	210,808	785,048	43,310	12,748	35,433	1,087,350

*Included in "Septic Pumpings" prior to 1990-91

Public Education and Small Planet School Program

Public Education

The District's comprehensive public education program actively supports member agencies in reaching and maintaining the 50-percent reduction goal of the AB 939 waste reduction law. The General Manager and other District staff support the two public education staff members in their various tasks. These include reports, brochures, and media and advertising campaigns; local community events such as the Monterey County Fair, Earth Day, and garden fairs; and speaking engagements for service clubs and other community organizations. As part of its composting program, the District offers free workshops on how to compost and sells three different types of backyard composting bins and a worm composting bin at discounted prices at the Last Chance Mercantile. Business waste reduction workshops are offered through the local Chambers of Commerce.

"Small Planet" School Education Program

The District's School Education Program teaches students about waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. The program offers classroom presentations, field trips to the on-site recycling facilities and the landfill, teacher workshops, and a resource library for teachers. District staff also provide technical assistance for waste reduction, recycling, gardening and composting programs in the schools, and work with local school administrators to develop Source Reduction and Recycling plans for their districts. Initiated in 1996, the program is offered free of charge to the six school districts located in the District's service area, as well as to colleges and youth programs.

The "Small Planet Demonstration Garden" is a major feature of the school program. The garden, which was planted in 1997 adjacent to the administration building parking lot, features a compost demonstration area, outdoor classroom with picnic seating, greenhouse, native plant area and butterfly garden, pond, organic vegetable garden, and agricultural display.

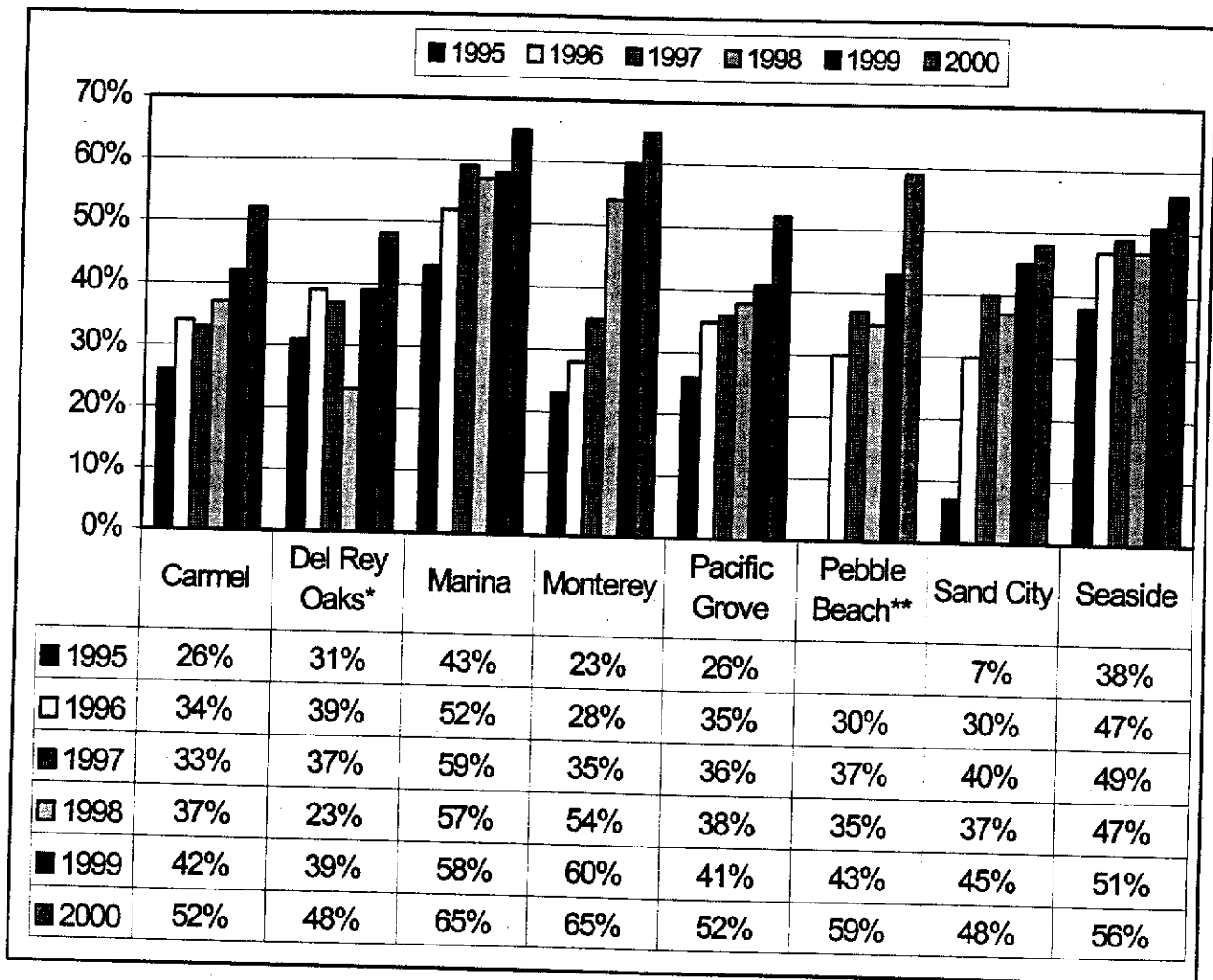
During the 2000-2001 school year the District's Public Education Coordinator and her assistant gave a total of 40 presentations to 3,254 students and adults, and led 53 tours for another 1,845 persons. More than 22,000 students and adults have participated in the program since it began four years ago.

SMALL  PLANET



Municipal Diversion Rates 1995 through 2000

The following chart shows the progress each of the District's member agencies has made towards achieving the state-mandated goals. Through a combination of programs, including curbside recycling and the District's diversion efforts, most cities have achieved or very nearly met the state target rates.



* The Del Rey Oaks Condominium remodeling project inordinately impacted the city's diversion rate for 1998.

** Pebble Beach tonnage was not tracked separately until 1996.
1996 and 1997 rates use an estimated 1990 base year method.
1998 thru 2000 uses a current year disposal to current year generation method.